LEAFLETS

of the Southern California Botanists

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President's Message

Greetings Southern California Botanists,

We hope everyone had a delightful spring, and you had a chance to check out one of our amazing SCB field trips! Before you head up into the mountains to continue your botanical wonderings, we are excited to announce our 50th Annual Southern California Botanists Symposium will be on Oct 26th. We will be celebrating "50 Years of Milestones" with a look into the past, present, and future of California botany. We have secured our usual haunts at the Seaver North Auditorium and the California Courtyard at California Botanic Gardens, and we are excited to announce that Southern California's very own plant-based punk rock band **Sage Against The Machine** will be performing at the mixer! We have a few fun activities planned, so stay tuned for updates and the speaker lineup coming soon.

Our organization is embracing the digital age by now publishing our journal, Crossosoma, online! Volume 48 (1 & 2) is now available on our website (https://socalbot.org/crossosoma/). With this digital transition, articles can be more easily accessed worldwide and will be searchable through online research databases. This will also allow our organization to save some costs on shipping and remove limits on color images for contributors.

Thank you all for keeping botany bitchin'!

Best,

Drew Kaiser

SCB President

Nemacladus longiflorus (long-flowered Nemacladus) from the San Jacinto Mtns, May 2024. Photo by Nina House.

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T-Shirt Design Contest

The 2024 Southern California Botanists symposium will be our organization's 50th symposium. The title of our symposium will be "50 Years of Milestones: The Past, Present, and Future of California Botany". For this special occasion, we're holding another t-shirt design contest and you're invited to participate. This is your chance to highlight the past, present, and future of California botany. The winning design will be showcased on t-shirts for sale at the symposium. Here are the details: 1) one entry per person; 2) an original color line drawing only – no AI images; 3) include the symposium's title in the design; 4) submit as .jpg or .pdf format; 5) filename "Designer first name_last name_date"; 6) deadline for submittals is August 1, 2024; and 6) send submittals to Allison.rudalevige@psomas.com. Contest winner will receive a free t-shirt with their design.

Last year's winning t-shirt design, by Peri-Lee Pipkin.

Dudleya chasmophyta

Southern California has gained a new species of dudleya, *D. chasmophtya*. This newly described dudleya is currently known only from Santiago Canyon near the town of Modjeska on the coastal slopes of the Santa Ana Mountains. Published on March 12 in Madroño 70 (3): 151-157 (2023) by authors Stephen McCabe, and two of our current board members, Kristen Hasenstab-Lehman and Matt Guilliams. *Dudleya chasmophyta* becomes Orange County's third currently endemic taxon.

Dudleya chasmophyta is a bright yellow-flowered and glabrous succulent perennial member of the stonecrop family (Crassulaceae). The overall color of the plant is a brownish green, often with the lower leaf surface showing a hint of red. The inflorescence is relatively short, with stems generally less than 20 cm long, with basal leaves forming a rosette. *Dudleya chasmophyta* grows primarily on steep north-facing conglomerate cliffs with few other species. The plants are very difficult to access and relatively few botanists have been able to reach the plant in its native habitat, which is one reason its taxonomic position has been difficult to pin down. These plants have long lived under an assumed name, *Dudleya cymosa* subsp. *ovatifolia*, a federally listed threatened plant better known for its distribution in the Santa Monica Mountains. *Dudleya cymosa* subsp. *ovatifolia* is quite distinct, however, with a different growth structure and especially in having broader leaves which are deep purple-red below.

-Fred Roberts

Dudleya chasmophtya, a new rare dudleya for California.

A new-to-California species is discovered at Kelso Dunes in Mojave National Preserve

On a beautiful fall day in Mojave National Preserve, Great Basin Institute research associate, Avery Hansen, was spending his weekend at the Kelso Dunes. Plants taking advantage of the above average precipitation monsoon season were still flowering late into the year. Hansen, an avid observer on iNaturalist, was logging what he could find when he came across a peculiar flowering specimen. After some quick keying, he logged it as *Lygodesmia grandiflora* (Figure 1). This quickly caught the attention of Jim André, Director of the Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, who lives only a few miles south of the occurrence. André noted that this taxon has not been recorded in California and should be vouchered immediately. Hansen shared this news with me when he arrived back at our work site on Cima Dome where we were in the midst of our Joshua tree replanting efforts. We collected a few voucher specimens the following week (Kaiser #252).

Fig 1. Photos of *Lygodesmia grandiflora* var. *dianthopsis* observed at Kelso Dunes on October 30, 2022. (Photos: Avery Hansen)

Lo and behold, the plants were confirmed as the Antelope Island skeletonplant, *Lygodesmia grandiflora* var. *dianthopsis*. The closest known voucher specimens of this species were collected approximately 260 kilometers (~160 miles) to the north on the Nevada Test Site by Jim Reveal in 1968 (Reveal #1197). Between 2016 and 2023, however, numerous iNaturalist observations had been made of this species just outside of Las Vegas in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, approximate 135 kilometers (~84 miles) to the north.

The newly discovered occurrence at Kelso Dunes was confined to a small area, approximately 1.5 hectares (~3.6 acres), within a deep, sandy depression roughly 350-500 meters southwest of the tallest dune (Fig 2). Only 10 plants were seen on this subsequent visit. Aside from representing a range extension into California, it is also the furthest southern occurrence and lowest elevation the species has been observed, from 1,225 meters at Red Rock Canyon NCA to 850 meters at the Kelso Dunes. Please join me in welcoming this new genus to the flora of California! Great job, Avery! Be on the look out for a Noteworthy Collection in the next Crossosoma issue.

Fig 2. Landscape photo with arrow indicating deep sandy depression where plants were seen at Kelso Dunes. (Photo: Kaiser)

- Drew Kaiser

What's in Bloom?

Showcasing the beauty of California's native flora.

Calochortus palmeri var. *munzii* (San Jacinto Mariposa Lily)
Liliaceae
CRPR 1B.2
May 2024

Opuntia polyacantha var. *erinacea* (Mojave Prickly Pear)
Cactaceae
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument
May 2024

Lewisia rediviva (Bitter Root)
Montiaceae
Kern County
May 2024

SCB Field Trips

We have had several field trips recently that were a huge success!

On April 27th, SoCalBot went to Otay Mountain Wilderness on a field trip led by Jonathon Snapp-Cook. Located along the border in San Diego County and dominated by chamise chaparral, southern mixed chaparral, coastal sage scrub, southern interior cypress forest, riparian woodland, and oak woodland, its unique metavolcanic soils are home to near endemic taxa. Many incredible plants were seen!

Group photo from the Otay Mountain Wilderness field trip on April 27th.

Group photo from the South Fork Meadows field trip on June 2nd.

On June 2nd, we went to South Fork Meadows in the San Bernardino Mountains. This workshop, led by Duncan Bell, went to some of the most unique habitats in the mountain range, including montane meadows, pebble-plains, and limestone canyons. A great deal of endemic species, some threatened and endangered, occur in the mountain range, and some were even seen on the field trip!

Crossosoma Arrives in the Digital Era!

We have successfully converted Crossosoma, the Journal of the Southern California Botanists, from paper to a digital PDF format. Volume 48 (2022) was published in March and is posted on the website. This volume includes a paper on the flora of Red Rock Hill, San Bernardino County, California, and four noteworthy collections submissions. Check it out at: https://tinyurl.com/yc6fh2fp

Ultimately, we hope to also provide links to individual papers, but we are not quite there yet. We are also welcoming board members Matt Guilliams and Kristen Hasenstab-Lehman to the Crossosoma editorial team. Matt was instrumental to the switch to digital and the process would likely have taken quite a bit longer without Matt's assistance. If you have a research project, especially related to southern California plant science, SCB is always looking for new material to publish in Crossosoma. Follow our guidelines posted on the website (we are in the process of updating these) and send submissions to Michelle Cloud-Hughes (mcloudhughes@gmail.com). Members can publish their papers for free and now we can include color photographs without the restrictions imposed by paper printing.

-Fred Roberts, layout editor.

CROSSOSOMA

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✿ SAVE THE DATE ✿

50th Southern California Botanists Symposium

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50 Years of Milestones:
The Past, Present, and Future
of California Botany

✿ October 26, 2024 ✿

Native Plant Gardens

- California Botanic Garden, calbg.org
- Fullerton Arboretum, at CSU Fullerton, fullertonarboretum.org
- Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, tinyurl.com/hahpacyd
- Native Garden at Golden West College, tinyurl.com/ymfrke3z
- Nature Gardens at Natural History Museum of L.A. Co., tinyurl.com/47th7nfz
- San Diego Botanic Garden, sdbg.org
- Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, sbbotanicgarden.org
- UCLA Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden, botgard.ucla.edu

SCB Grants Program

Did you know that SCB has a 41-year tradition of awarding grants?

* SCB Annual Grant
* Susan Hobbs Grant for Field Research
* Alan Romspert Grant in Desert Botany
* Jessica Mae Orozco Diversity Grant
* SCB Conservation Grant

For more information, visit socalbot.org/grants or inquire at grants@socalbot.org

Please donate to the SCB Grants Program and help fund these wonderful grants: paypal.me/socalbot?locale.x=en_US

Membership

Join SCB or renew your existing membership online via PayPal at: socalbot.org

Other Grants Programs

* CNPS Student Research Grants, cnps.org/education/students/grants
* Orange County Chapter CNPS Grants, occnps.org/education/grants.html
* Dean Taylor Botanical Exploration Memorial Award, norcalbotanists.org
* California grassland research, cnga.org/GRASSgrants

Do you have something to contribute to *Leaflets*?

We like short informal articles, notes, sketches, & photographs. Send email to the Editor: SoCalBotNewsletter@gmail.com

To submit scientific articles for publication in *Crossosoma*, send email to editor@socalbot.org